

State of Alaska FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Fish and Game Boards and Advisory Committees Component Budget Summary

Component: Fish and Game Boards and Advisory Committees

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Boards Support Section administers the public process for the state's fish and wildlife regulatory system relating to fish and wildlife resources, and ensures the public is provided an opportunity to participate in that process.

Core Services

All expenses and activities related to the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and staff support for the regulatory process are included in this component. The Board of Fisheries typically meets five times, plus teleconferences; the Board of Game typically meets three times, plus teleconferences; and the Joint Board can meet up to one time per year. Eighty-one advisory committees across the state provide local residents the opportunity to participate in the formation of fish and game regulations. The headquarters office provides direct staff support for the boards and advisory committees, and sets section policies and procedures. Headquarters staff coordinates meetings and activities of the boards, process petitions and regulatory changes outside board meetings and deal with the technical functions of correspondence, legal notices, calls for proposals, filing regulations, mailings, fiscal accountability, records retention and retrieval, paralegal research and general assurance of statutory and regulatory processes. Seasonal staff in six Boards Section office (Kotzebue, Dillingham, Bethel, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau) provides technical and logistical support for the committees, and serves as the main contact for state fish and game regulatory information for staff from the state and federal agencies and the public. Travel and per diem expenses for advisory committee members to attend committee meetings and for one representative to attend Board of Fisheries and Board of Game meetings are included in this component.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
A: Maximize public participation in developing and evaluating regulations for the use of fish and wildlife resources. <u>Target #1:</u> Maximize the number of Board of Fisheries proposals submitted by public. <u>Measure #1:</u> The number of public proposals for the Board of Fisheries. <u>Target #2:</u> Maximize the number of Board of Game proposals submitted by public. <u>Measure #2:</u> The number of public proposals for the Board of Game. <u>Target #3:</u> Increase the number of public participant entries on the master "Notification by email" list. <u>Measure #3:</u> Percent change in number of valid public email addresses added to master list.	A1: Involve the public in the fish and game advisory committee process. <u>Target #1:</u> Notify the public of election meetings at least two weeks prior to the advisory committee (AC) election meeting. <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of AC election meetings publicly noticed at least two weeks in advance.
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
B: Boards perform their regulatory role effectively and within legal requirements. <u>Target #1:</u> Minimize the number of agenda change	B1: Board members are knowledgeable in the field of action of their board. <u>Target #1:</u> Provide up-to-date "New Member Orientation

requests that are submitted outside of the boards regulatory cycle.

Measure #1: Number of agenda change requests.

Manual" to all incoming board members and a new member orientation that is attended by every board member at the beginning of each meeting cycle.

Measure #1: New member orientation session attended by every board member at the beginning of each meeting cycle and New Member Orientation Manual is updated with recent statutory and other changes prior to distribution to incoming board members.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Issue "Call for Proposed Changes" to fishing/hunting regulations.
- Distribute proposals around the state for public comment.
- Attend and provide staff support at board and advisory committee meetings.
- Prepare and issue legal public notices for board and advisory committees.
- Distribute agendas to all interested parties for board/advisory committee meetings.
- Provide parliamentary services to boards.
- Coordinate joint meetings for the boards with other agencies and regulatory bodies over issues of mutual concern (NPFMC, FSB, etc.).
- Make meeting arrangements: set meeting dates and locations, secure meeting space and equipment leases.
- Make travel arrangements, block hotel rooms, process travel claims for board/advisory committee members.
- Prepare & organize meeting material for the board, including written comment from advisory committees and the public, agendas, roadmaps, reports, etc.
- Maintain legal records of decisions.
- Write findings, resolutions, and policy statements to support board decisions.
- Provide training and technical assistance to board members, both onsite and through New Member Orientation Manual.
- Coordinate input (biological, scientific, and sociological information) provided by ADF&G and other agencies to boards.
- Prepare and organize meeting material for advisory committees, including written comment from the public, agendas, reports, etc.
- Provide parliamentary services to advisory committees.
- Provide training and technical assistance to advisory committee (AC) members and officers, both onsite and through AC Manual.
- Coordinate input (biological, scientific, and sociological information) provided by ADF&G and other agencies to advisory committees.
- Coordinate joint meetings for the advisory committees with federal Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) and other state advisory committees.
- Maintain database of Board and AC members, interested organizations and individuals for the fish and wildlife regulatory process.
- Maintain website with current information.
- Distribute board/advisory committee meeting reports and summaries to interested parties around the state.
- Maintain historical record of board decisions (paper and website).
- Maintain record of advisory committee meetings and correspondence, including membership rosters, record of elections, etc.

FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2007 Component Budget: \$1,779,600

Personnel:

Full time	6
Part time	4
Total	10

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Maximize public participation in developing and evaluating regulations for the use of fish and wildlife resources.

Target #1: Maximize the number of Board of Fisheries proposals submitted by public.

Measure #1: The number of public proposals for the Board of Fisheries.

Number of Public Proposals Submitted to the Board of Fisheries**FINFISH**

Mtg Cycle	Region: Cook Inlet	Region: Kodiak & Chignik	Total for cycle	Percent change of average
2004/2005	287	99	386	11%
2001/2002	332	67	399	14%
1998/1999	208	71	279	-20%
1995/1996	271	60	331	-5%
TOTAL	1098	297		
GRAND TOTAL:			1395	

Mtg Cycle	Region: Bristol Bay	Region: A-Y-K	Region: AK Pen/Aleutian Is	Total for cycle	Percent change of average
2003/2004	72	74	72	218	-16%
2000/2001	119	95	49	263	1%
1997/1998	140	80	52	272	5%
1994/1995	126	71	91	288	11%
TOTAL	457	320	264		
GRAND TOTAL:				1041	

Mtg Cycle	Region: Southeast	Region: Prince William Sound	Total for cycle	Percent change of average
2005/2006	151	80	231	-28%
2002/2003	213	102	315	1%
1999/2000	173	112	285	-8%
1996/1997	266	80	346	11%
1993/1994	297	81	378	22%
TOTAL	949	375		
GRAND TOTAL:			1324	

KING AND TANNER CRAB

Mtg Cycle	Region: Statewide	Total for cycle	Percent change of average
2004/2005	61	61	-31%
2001/2002	94	94	7%
1998/1999	75	75	-15%
1995/1996	123	123	39%
TOTAL	353		

Analysis of results and challenges: The Board of Fisheries considers changes to regulations on a region-based, three year cycle which generally occurs from October through March. Each year, the Boards Support Section solicits proposals from the public beginning in November and provides public comment periods throughout the year. During this time period, the Boards Support Section distributes notices for the call for proposals and the public comment period via email and mail distribution lists, by posting on the Boards Support website and the state online public notice page, advertising in local papers and radio, and by distributing information to Advisory Committee members.

The number of proposals submitted to the Board of Fisheries for the 2004/2005 cycle for the Cook Inlet Region and the Kodiak & Chignik Regions increased by 11%, however, the number of proposals submitted to the board for all other regions decreased. Changes in the number of proposals can be due to a number of factors including public satisfaction with the current regulatory scheme(s), whether subsistence uses are being met, and unforeseen changes impacting fish stocks.

The Boards Support Section strives to disseminate information and notices to the public in multiple formats and media. The Boards Support Section monitors the fluctuation in the number of proposals to determine whether the number of meeting days for each board needs to be increased or decreased in any cycle, and to evaluate our efforts in publicizing the opportunity for the public to be involved in the regulatory process.

Note: Data for other fisheries (e.g., Dungeness crab, other shellfish, etc.) are being analyzed and will be

available in during the 2006/2007 meeting cycle.

Target #2: Maximize the number of Board of Game proposals submitted by public.

Measure #2: The number of public proposals for the Board of Game.

Number of Public Proposals Submitted to the Board of Game

Mtg Cycle	Region: Arctic & Western - Region V	Region: Statewide Regulations	Region: Interior - Region III	Total for cycle	Percent change of average
2003/2004	18	14	117	149	-20%
2001/2002	34	56	138	230	15%
1999/2000	29	109	101	239	-36%
1997/1998	31	23	77	131	-70%
TOTAL	112	204	433		
GRAND TOTAL:				749	

Mtg Cycle	Region: Southeast - Region I	Region: Southcentral - Region II	Total for cycle	Percent change of average
2004/2005	45	116	161	11%
2002/2003	52	184	236	67%
2000/2001	32	3	35	-87%
1998/1999	5	133	138	-59%
1996/1997	17	140	157	-64%
TOTAL	151	578		
GRAND TOTAL:			727	

Analysis of results and challenges: The Board of Game considers changes to regulations on a region-based, two year cycle, occurring from October through March. Every year, the board support section solicits proposals from the public several months before each board meeting and provides public comment periods throughout the year. During this time period, the Boards Support Section distributes notices for the call for proposals and the public comment period via email and mail distribution lists, by posting on the Boards Support website and the state online public notice page, advertising in local papers and radio, and by distributing information to Advisory Committee members.

The number of proposals submitted to the Board of Game for the 2004/2005 meeting cycle increased by 11%, however the 2003/2004 meeting cycle indicates a 20% decrease. Changes in the number of proposals can be due to a number of factors including public satisfaction with the current regulatory scheme(s), whether subsistence uses are being met, and unforeseen changes impacting game populations.

The Boards Support Section strives to disseminate information and notices to the public in multiple formats and media. The Boards Support Section monitors the fluctuation in the number of proposals to determine whether the number of meeting days for each board needs to be increased or decreased in any cycle, and to evaluate our efforts in publicizing the opportunity for the public to be involved in the regulatory process.

Target #3: Increase the number of public participant entries on the master "Notification by email" list.

Measure #3: Percent change in number of valid public email addresses added to master list.

Percent Change in Number of Public Email Addresses Added to Master List

Year	Number of Public Email Addresses	% Change
2005	408	96%
2004	208	100%
2003	0	

Analysis of results and challenges: In 2004, the Boards Support Section began soliciting email addresses and created an electronic mailing list to provide a more efficient and less expensive method of disseminating information to the public. An online form on the Boards Support Section webpage provides easy access for the public to sign up for information. The number of public email addresses has nearly doubled since 2004. Continued development of the email distribution list will provide another avenue for encouraging public participation in developing and evaluating regulations for the use of fish and wildlife resources.

A1: Strategy - Involve the public in the fish and game advisory committee process.

Target #1: Notify the public of election meetings at least two weeks prior to the advisory committee (AC) election meeting.

Measure #1: Number of AC election meetings publicly noticed at least two weeks in advance.

Number of Election Meetings Noticed at Least two Weeks in Advance2004/2005 Meeting Cycle

REGION	Total Number of ACs	Number of ACs holding Elections	Number Achieving Two-Week Notice Requirement	%
ARCTIC	10	7	7	100%
INTERIOR	16	10	10	100%
SOUTHCENTRAL	19	19	19	100%
SOUTHEAST	23	9	1	11%
SOUTHWEST	13	8	7	88%
TOTAL	81			

2003/2004 Meeting Cycle

REGION	Total Number of ACs	Number of ACs holding Elections	Number Achieving Two-Week Notice Requirement	%
ARCTIC	10	3	3	100%
INTERIOR	16	11	11	100%
SOUTHCENTRAL	19	19	19	100%
SOUTHEAST	23	6	6	100%
SOUTHWEST	13	6	5	83%
TOTAL	81			

Analysis of results and challenges: Advisory Committees are the local "grass roots" groups that meet to

discuss fishing and wildlife issues and to provide recommendations to the boards. Meetings are open to the public and are intended to provide a local forum on fish and wildlife issues. Their purpose as established by the legislature includes: developing regulatory proposals, evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board, providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, advising the appropriate regional council on resources, and consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies.

The Boards Support Section assists the Advisory Committees in scheduling, publicizing, and coordinating meetings, and provides the committees with information relating to the Boards of Fisheries and Game schedules and deadlines. The Boards Support Section assists the Advisory Committee by providing two week public notice of election meetings which required under regulation. The goal of the Boards Support Section is to provide notice two weeks prior to election meetings.

During the 2004/2005 meeting cycle, seven of eight Advisory Committee election meetings in the Southwest Region were publicly noticed two weeks in advance. While public notice was provided for all eight election meetings in this region, verification of whether notices were provided two week in advance is only available for seven meetings. In the Southeast Region, public notice was provided for each election meeting, however, due to a transition in staff during this time period, verification of whether notices were provided two weeks in advance is not available. Documentation of public notices for future election meetings in this region shall be improved upon.

B: Result - Boards perform their regulatory role effectively and within legal requirements.

Target #1: Minimize the number of agenda change requests that are submitted outside of the boards regulatory cycle.

Measure #1: Number of agenda change requests.

Number of Agenda Change Requests		
Board of Fisheries		
Year	Received	Accepted
2005	24	3
2004	24	5
2003	36	7
2002	17	4
2001	17	4
2000	21	9
1999	37	14

Board of Game		
Year	Received	Accepted
2005	8	6
2004	2	1
2003	2	1
2002	2	2
2001	6	4
2000	2	2
1999	2	2

Analysis of results and challenges: The public, state advisory committees, and the department plan and budget for each board's regulatory cycle (two years for Board of Game and three years for Board of Fisheries). The public has come to rely upon the consistency of the regulatory review time periods.

While agenda change requests (ACRs) are important to both boards in order to correct unforeseen effects of a regulation outside the regulatory cycles, ACRs may cause additional expense for the department and additional burden and expense for the public and state's advisory committee system. The Boards Support Section encourages each board to minimize the number of issues taken up out of the normal meeting cycle. The low number of ACRs received and accepted by each board indicates that the boards perform their regulatory role effectively.

B1: Strategy - Board members are knowledgeable in the field of action of their board.

Target #1: Provide up-to-date "New Member Orientation Manual" to all incoming board members and a new member orientation that is attended by every board member at the beginning of each meeting cycle.

Measure #1: New member orientation session attended by every board member at the beginning of each meeting cycle and New Member Orientation Manual is updated with recent statutory and other changes prior to distribution to incoming board members.

New Member Orientation Sessions

Board of Fisheries

Year	New Members	Number Attended	% Attendance
2005	0	0	NA
2004	1	1	100%
2003	3	3	100%

Board of Game

Year	New Members	Number Attended	% Attendance
2005	1	1	100%
2004	0	0	NA
2003	4	4	100%

Analysis of results and challenges: New board members were appointed to each board as illustrated above; orientation sessions were held prior to the first regulatory meeting and attended by all board members on the pertinent board.

New member orientation manuals were updated and provided to all board members, newly appointed and existing, at each orientation session. In addition, manuals are provided to department staff upon request, to aid training of department staff in the board process.

Key Component Challenges

In FY 06, both the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game were able to return to the tradition of holding meetings over the entire state, rather than limiting meetings to three main regional centers (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau). Previously, the Board of Fisheries has held meetings at the fishing grounds whenever possible, to give opportunity for input to those whose livelihoods are dependent upon the board's decisions. The Board of Game also met in both rural and urban areas of the state to give opportunity for input from all citizens of the state. Both boards rely heavily on local public participation, and without it the decisions made by the boards may not be as sound and beneficial to all Alaskans. Both boards plan to continue rotating the regulatory meetings in all areas of the state during FY 07, to receive this important input.

The Board of Fisheries is developing options for state waters groundfish fisheries in order to respond to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (council) intention of "rationalizing" the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. Through the board and council's Joint Protocol Committee, the council has requested the board provide input regarding state waters fisheries, including observer coverage. The Board will also analyze the regulations it developed in FY 05 for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island crab fisheries, in response to federal action to rationalize those fisheries. Finally, the board continues to evaluate regulatory and statutory changes necessary to restructure the state's commercial salmon industry. The board received a separate allocation from the legislature for this effort, which will conclude with a final report in June 2006.

The Board of Game is implementing the intensive management law, taking actions to bring board findings and policies in line with changes in state statutes. The statute also changed the requirement that the commissioner make a finding

in addition to a board finding prior to issuance of a permit. The new law allows issuance of a permit with only a board finding needed. The board continues to make associated changes to its regulations to bring them into compliance with the new law.

Currently, participation from all advisory committees at board meetings is incomplete due to limited funding. This limits both boards from receiving the full community input that the advisory committees were statutorily designed to provide. Public participation and active membership in the advisory committee system is key to its usefulness to the communities, the department, and the Boards of Fisheries and Game.

Federal management of subsistence uses on federal lands and waters continues to be a key issue for both the Boards of Fisheries and Game, and for the advisory committees. As the federal agencies implement subsistence management, the Boards Support Section has experienced an increased workload in designing a system within which state boards and the federal board may interact, responding to information requests from federal agencies, from state advisory committees, and from the public. We anticipate a continued increase in regulatory coordination issues for the boards during the 2005/2006 meeting cycle. Dual management, including two-regulatory systems, can also be confusing and burdensome to the advisory committees. Ongoing education about the state's jurisdiction and responsibilities in state subsistence management is important for continued effectiveness of advisory committees. Interaction and communication between the state and federal advisory committee systems will also increase the effectiveness of the state's advisory committees.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

In order to meet statutory mandates, the Fish and Game Boards and Advisory Committees Component has requested a general fund increment. The funding will ensure that advisory committees can meet legal mandates of holding a minimum of two meetings per year to be considered "active," and will improve their abilities to fulfill their regulatory duties in developing and evaluating fish and game proposals and providing input and recommendations to the appropriate boards. Due to the abbreviated meeting schedules, decisions by the boards do not include the full benefit of information and analysis needed for these complex allocation decisions.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2005

The Board of Fisheries continued to implement the statewide Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy through evaluation of proposals in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Cook Inlet areas. This significant policy aims to evaluate and rebuild the state's salmon stocks, and continues to shape overall salmon fisheries management.

In response to ongoing litigation, the Board of Fisheries reviewed the purse seine salmon fisheries cooperative in the Chignik Area. This regulation creates a purse seine sockeye salmon fishery cooperative among CFEC permit holders. The co-op was allocated a percentage of the annual Chignik area sockeye salmon harvestable surplus. The board will consider proposals for changes to this fishery in order to monitor the effects of the salmon co-op. A decision by the Supreme Court on the state's appeal is expected in early 2006.

The Board of Game reconfirmed its emergency action in response to a decision in *Manning v. State*. In his ruling, Judge Tan found that a portion of the board's scoring system for Tier II hunting permits was unconstitutional. The board eliminated the portion of the permit application that provided a community cap, because that cap affected individual scores. The court said that this cap was too close to providing a local preference, which is unconstitutional. The state's appeal of the decision is still in the court system.

A new board member was named to the Board of Fisheries and to the Board of Game by Governor Murkowski. An orientation session was held for each board. These important sessions enable the boards to receive essential information from the commissioner, the Departments of Law and Public Safety, and other agencies on statutory authorities and policies, such as the administrative procedures act, the subsistence law, constitutional provisions, etc.

Both boards met within the schedules provided.

Board and advisory committee information was posted on the section's website within three working days for access by advisory committee members, other agencies, and the general public.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16.05
AS 16.20
AS 44.62
AAC Title 5
Public Law 96-487

Contact Information
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Fish and Game Boards and Advisory Committees Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	761.9
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	396.7
73000 Services	0.0	0.0	558.1
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	62.9
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	0.0	0.0	1,779.6
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	267.5
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	0.0	1,085.5
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	0.0	384.9
1036 Commercial Fishing Loan Fund	0.0	0.0	31.7
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	10.0
Funding Totals	0.0	0.0	1,779.6

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
Commercial Fishing Loan Fund	51100	0.0	0.0	31.7
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	31.7
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	0.0	0.0	267.5
Interagency Receipts	51015	0.0	0.0	384.9
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	0.0	0.0	10.0
Restricted Total		0.0	0.0	662.4
Total Estimated Revenues		0.0	0.0	694.1

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2006 Management Plan to FY2007 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2006 Management Plan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer in all positions and funding from Advisory Committees to new component to streamline budget management	325.1	105.0	75.7	505.8
-Transfer all positions and funding from Boards of Fisheries and Game into new component to streamline budget management	642.4	162.5	340.9	1,145.8
-Transfer excess SDPR Authority from Sport Fisheries for requests for information	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increase state funds to meet Advisory Committee system statutory meeting requirements	118.0	0.0	0.0	118.0
FY2007 Governor	1,085.5	267.5	426.6	1,779.6

Fish and Game Boards and Advisory Committees Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2006</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2007</u> <u>Governor</u>	
Full-time	0	6	Annual Salaries 444,661
Part-time	0	4	COLA 13,013
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay 22,482
			Annual Benefits 281,773
			Less 0.00% Vacancy Factor (29)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay 0
Totals	0	10	Total Personal Services 761,900

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Manager I	0	0	1	0	1
Exec Dir I, Brds Fish & Game	0	0	1	0	1
Exec Dir II, Brds Fish & Game	0	0	1	0	1
F&G Regional Reg Pgm Asst	1	1	0	2	4
Publications Spec II	0	0	1	0	1
Publications Tech II	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	1	1	6	2	10